

2015 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 522

Celebrating the life of Robert Paul Warhurst.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, August 17, 2015

WHEREAS, Robert Paul Warhurst, an admired entrepreneur and the founder of the Merrifield Garden Center, died on April 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a native of Russellville, Alabama, Robert "Bob" Paul Warhurst learned the value of hard work and responsibility at a young age, taking his first job at the age of seven to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, Bob Warhurst became a bricklayer for his older brother's contracting company and had a hand in the construction of many of Northern Virginia's suburban developments; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to the community, Bob Warhurst founded Warhurst Trash Company, then opened The Tradin' Post, a secondhand store to resell intact discarded goods; and

WHEREAS, Bob Warhurst began to stock plants at The Tradin' Post and later opened the Merrifield Garden Center to better serve the community's needs for a local nursery; under his able leadership, the center grew to become one of the largest independent garden centers in the country, with three locations in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, an active business leader, Bob Warhurst also helped establish two banks and gave generously to charitable and civic organizations; the story of his inspirational journey through life was published in *The American Dream: The Rags to Roses Story of Bob Warhurst and the Founding of the Merrifield Garden Center*; and

WHEREAS, Bob Warhurst will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Billie Jean; children, Debbie, Robert, Jr., Larry, Donny, and Kevin, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Robert Paul Warhurst, a respected entrepreneur in the Fairfax community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Robert Paul Warhurst as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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